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DRUG DEFENDANTS

IN

MASSACHUSETTS

1978

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PROBATION

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DRUG DEFENDANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS 1978

I. Introduction

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation has studied the drug defendant population in Massachusetts since April, 1974. The 1978 study analyzed all new arraignments on charges involving controlled substances, as reported to the Office of the Commissioner by Massachusetts courts during four sample weeks of the year.

Court records were analyzed by age of defendant, residence of the defendant by region of the state, drug substance by class, frequency of simultaneous offenses, and type of offense (possession versus distribution).

While this study analyzed criminal arraignments on drug charges, it does not purport to draw conclusions on the conviction rate for controlled substance violations. This study only addresses various questions regarding drug defendants, not adjudicated offenders.

II. Methodology

In the 1978 Drug Study, samples were drawn during the weeks of January 30-February 3, May 22-26, August 21-25 and November 13-17. All new records listing at least one drug offense, with or without other charges, were included in the samples; records reflecting cases on continuance were discounted.

A total of 1,312 new drug cases were received and counted in the 1978 sample: 290 from the week of January 30, 269 from the week of May 22-25, 445 from the week of August 21-25 and 308 from the week of November 13-17.

III. Definitions

1. Regions

Massachusetts cities and towns divided into 7 geographical areas, based on Department of Mental Health Regions as follows:

Region I	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties
Region II	Primarily Worcester County
Region III	Northern and Northwestern Middlesex County and the Lowell area
Region IV	Essex County plus the Malden-Medford-Everett area in Middlesex county
Region V	Most of Norfolk County plus the southernmost section of Middlesex County
Region VI	Suffolk County plus Brookline
Region VII	Southernmost Norfolk County plus the Brockton area and all of Southeastern Massachusetts

2. Drug Classes

CLASS A	Heroin, other named opiates and opiate derivatives
CLASS B	Amphetamines, Methamphetamine, cocaine, methadone, opium, barbituates
CLASS C	Hallucinogens, including LSD, DMT, THC, Hashish, PCP
CLASS D	Marijuana and certain barbitals
CLASS E	Dilute mixtures of codeine, morphine or opium, prescription drugs not named elsewhere

OTHER	Miscellaneous categories of drug offenses
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IV. Three-Year Data Analysis: 1976-1978

The four-quarterly samples drawn in 1976, 1977, and 1978 have shown a steady increase in total volume. In 1976, 785 defendants were arraigned during the four sample weeks; in 1977, the number had increased to 1,094 (up 39.4 percent), and in 1978, a total of 1,312 defendants were charged with drug offenses during the four sample weeks. The 1978 figure reflects a 19.9 percent increase over 1977, and 67.1 percent increase over 1976.

To adjust for whatever portion of the increases might be related to fluctuations in the state population, the drug offense rate was computed. Using 1976, 1977 and 1978 state population estimates from the Department of Public Health, the rate of drug defendants per 100,000 population is as follows:

	Estimated Annual Volume of Drug Defendants	.	Estimated Annual Population	=	Projected Drug Offense Rate
1976	10,205	÷	5,834,974	=	1.74
1977	14,222	÷	5,860,482	=	2.42
1978	17,056	÷	5,885,990	=	2.89

Even with this adjustment for increase in the state's population, the volume of drug defendants again reflects a steady increase over the three year period.

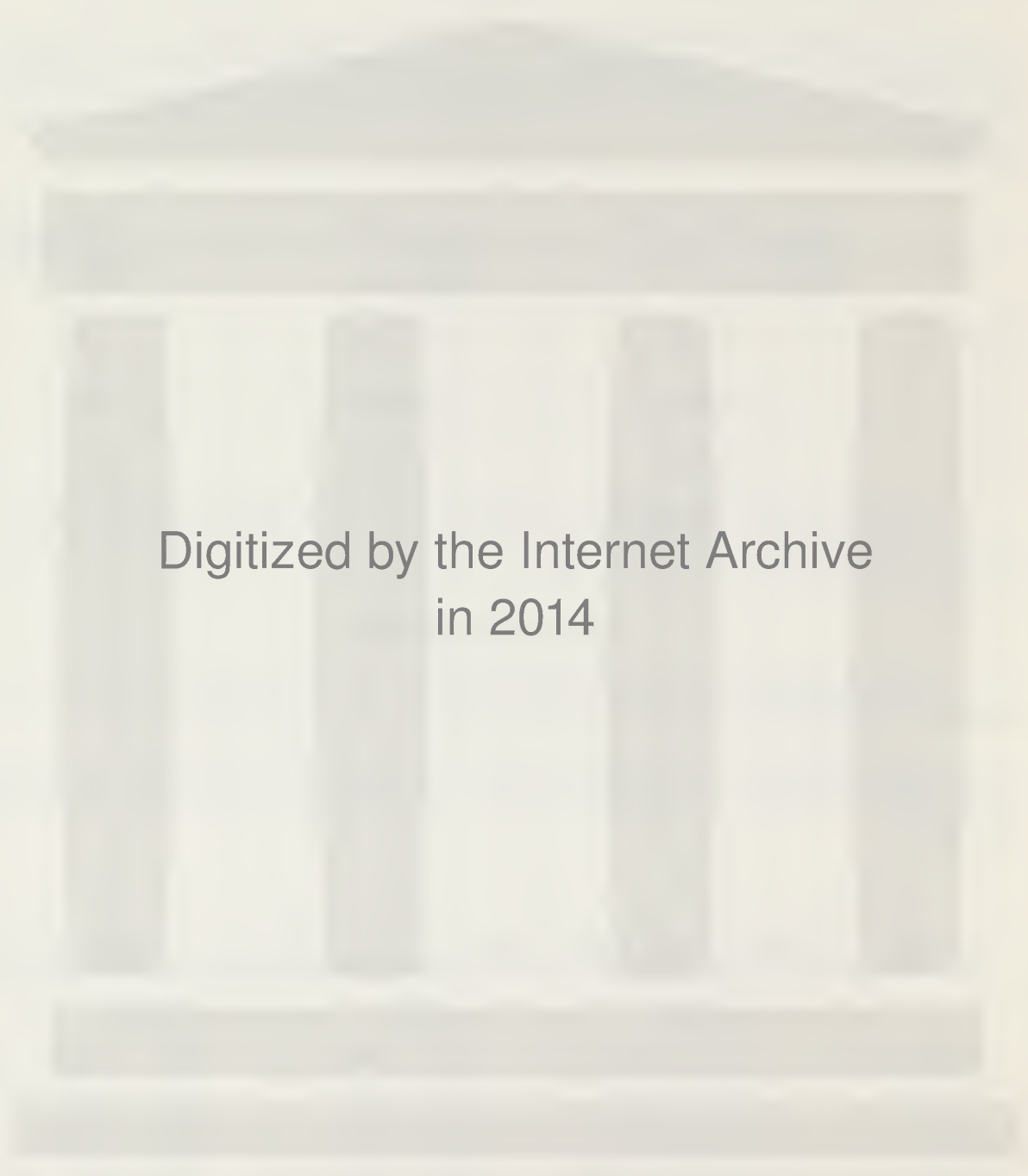
Age at Arraignment

Table I shows the age of defendants in the total volume of four-week sample (1976-1978) at the time of the person's arraignment.

Young adults, 17-25 years of age, accounted for 66 percent of drug defendants in 1976, 67 percent in 1977, and dropped slightly to 63.7 percent in 1978.

Table 1 -- Age at Arraignment, Three Year Comparison -- Frequency & Percent

	1976		1977		1978	
under 14	5 - 1%		17 - 2%		33 - 2.5%	
15-16	64 - 8%	9%	106 - 10%	12%	133 - 10.1%	12.6%
17-18	136 - 17%		243 - 22%		258 - 19.7%	
19-21	199 - 25%	66%	195 - 18%	67%	303 - 23.1%	63.7%
22-25	188 - 24%		297 - 27%		274 - 20.9%	
26 +	191 - 24%		236 - 22%		311 - 23.7%	
Unknown	2 -		-		-	
TOTAL	785 - 99%		1094 - 101%		1312 - 100%	



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Adults, 26 years of age and older, represented a consistent pattern over the three years. In 1976, adults accounted for 24 percent of the cases in the study, dropped slightly to 22 percent in 1977, then increased to 23.7 percent in 1978.

Juveniles, 16 years of age and younger, showed a steady pattern of increased representation in the number of drug defendants. While only 9 percent of drug charges were aimed at juveniles in 1976, 12 percent of those persons charged with controlled substance violations were juveniles in 1977, and 12.6 percent in 1978. In all three years, the largest number of juvenile drug defendants were 15 or 16 years of age.

Residence by Region

Table 2 shows the residential distribution of drug defendants, based on the home address listed on the court records. In those few cases where no address was given, the region of the court was substituted.

Table 2 — Offender Residence by Region, Three Year Comparison
Frequency and Percent

Region	1976	1977	1978
I	131 - 17%	153 - 14%	163 - 12.4%
II	95 - 12%	164 - 15%	138 - 10.5%
III	76 - 10%	131 - 12%	167 - 12.7%
IV	61 - 8%	103 - 9%	156 - 11.9%
V	85 - 11%	164 - 15%	160 - 12.2%
VI	219 - 28%	183 - 17%	239 - 18.2%
VII	61 - 8%	155 - 14%	239 - 18.2%
Out of State	17 - 2%	41 - 4%	50 - 3.9%
Unknown	40 - 5%	-	-
TOTAL	785 - 101%	1094 - 100%	1312 - 100%

The three year comparison shows a shift in the distribution of residence by region from 1976 to 1978. In 1978, regions I through 5 all accounted for approximately 10-12 percent of the cases, and Regions VI and VII representing about 18 percent. Two years earlier, Region VI (Suffolk County and Brookline) accounted for 28 percent of the drug defendants and Region VII (Southeastern Mass. and Cape Cod) represented only 8 percent.

The regional shifts indicate that the metropolitan areas of Boston, (VI) Worcester, (II) and Springfield (I) no longer dominate the incidence of drug cases. The Southeastern Massachusetts (VII) area has shown the largest percent increases, and in 1978 surpassed all other areas of the state except Suffolk County. Drug defendants from other states increased from 2 percent of the cases in 1976 to approximately 4 percent in 1977 and 1978.

Substance by Class

Table 3 shows the type of controlled substance by class over the three year period 1976-1978. The data reflects a steady reduction in the percent of defendants charged with Class A (heroin) offenses (16 percent in 1976, 11 percent in 1977, 6.7 percent in 1978), and an increase in Class D (marijuana) offenses (51 percent in 1976, 60 percent in 1977 and 58.9 percent in 1978).

Table 3 - Controlled Substance by Class, Frequency and Percent, Three Year

Class	Comparison		
	1976	1977	1978
A	124 - 16%	125 - 11%	89 - 6.7%
B	56 - 7%	56 - 5%	82 - 6.3%
C	33 - 5%	45 - 4%	46 - 3.5%
D	399 - 51%	660 - 60%	773 - 58.9%
E	16 - 2%	12 - 1%	23 - 1.8%
Multiple	101 - 13%	136 - 12%	180 - 13.7%
Other	47 - 6%	27 - 3%	56 - 4.3%
Unknown	9 - 1%	33 - 3%	63 - 4.8%
TOTAL	785 - 101%	1094 - 99%	1312 - 100%

All other drug classes remained relatively constant in distribution over the three year period. Multiple offenses, where a person was charged with violations of two or more classes of drug offenses, represented approximately 13 percent of the defendants in all three years.

Distributors

Table 4 compares the percentage of persons charged with simple possession or being in the presence of drugs, compared to the percentage who were distributors, or had quantities of drugs such that they probably intended to distribute. The category marked as "others" includes those persons who did not clearly fit into either category, such as uttering false prescriptions and possessing hypodermic syringes.

Table 4 -- Type of Controlled Substance Offense, 3- Year Comparison

	1976	1977	1978
Possession or Present	542 - 61%	751 - 69%	880 - 67.1%
Distribution or Intent	141 - 18%	274 - 25%	360 - 27.4%
Others	102 - 21%	69 - 6%	72 - 5.5%
TOTAL	785 - 100%	1094 - 100%	1312 - 100%

The percent of persons charged with actual/intended distribution of drugs has increased from 18 percent of the cases in 1976, to 25 percent in 1977, to 27.4 percent in 1978. The substantial reduction in the "Other" category may be partially explained by the apparent reduction in heroin use and associated paraphernalia.

Table 5 analyzes 1977 and 1978 data, based on the class of drugs upon which the distribution charges were focused. In every drug class, notable shifts were noted.

Table 5 — Distribution by Class, 2-Year Comparison (1976 data not available)

Class	1977	1978
A	61 - 22%	64 - 17.8%
B	25 - 9%	48 - 13.3%
C	22 - 9%	25 - 6.9%
D	120 - 44%	133 - 36.9%
E	1 -	6 - 1.7%
Multiple	29 - 11%	63 - 17.6%
Unknown	16 - 6%	21 - 5.8%
TOTAL	274 - 101%	360 - 100%

The percent of the actual/intended distributors dealing in Class A drugs (heroin), dropped from 22 percent in 1977 to 17.8 percent in 1978. Class B (amphetamines, ie cocaine) distributors increased from 9 percent of those charged with distribution in 1977 to 13.3 percent in 1978. Class C (hallucinogens, LSD, hashish) dropped from 9 percent of the distribution cases in 1977 to 1978, accounting for 44 percent and 36.9 percent of the distributors respectively. Class E (prescription drugs dilute mixture of codein, morphine) increased slightly, but represented an insignificant sample. Distributors dealing in multiple classes of drugs increased from 11 percent in 1977 to 17.6 percent in 1978.

V. 1978 Aggregate Data

The following data is a compilation of the total figures for the year 1978 with some observations noted.

Age at Arraignment

Young adults (17-25 years of age) represented nearly two-thirds (63.7 percent) of all drug defendants in the 1978 sample. Young adult defendants were nearly two and a half times as frequent as adults, and five times as frequent as juveniles.

TABLE 6- AGE AT ARRAIGNMENT

14 and under	33 ... 2.5%
15 - 16	133 ... 10.1%
17 - 18	258 ... 19.7%
19 - 21	303 ... 23.1%
22 - 25	274 ... 20.9%
26 Plus	311 ... 23.7%
	<u>1,312 ... 100%</u>

The average age of young adult defendants was 21 years.

Only 2.5 percent of those drug defendants in the 1978 study were 14 years of age or younger.

Residence by Region

Defendants from Regions VI and VII represented the highest number of drug defendants in the 1978 total sample, each accounting for 18.2 percent of the total cases. The other regions were evenly distributed, ranging from 10.5 percent to 12.7 percent of the cases. Out of state defendants accounted for 3.9 percent of the cases.

TABLE 7 - RESIDENCE BY REGION

I	163	...	12.4%
II	138	...	10.5%
III	167	...	12.7%
IV	156	...	11.9%
V	160	...	12.2%
VI	239	...	18.2%
VII	239	...	18.2%
Out of State	50	...	3.9%
	<u>1,312</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>100%</u>

Substance by Class

The overwhelming majority (58.9 percent) of drug defendants were charged with Class D (marijuana) offenses, which counters any prevailing myths that the police do not arrest people for possession of a couple joints. Those persons charged with multiple drug charges (ie. involving two or more classes of drugs) accounted for 13.7 percent of the cases.

TABLE 8 - SUBSTANCE BY CLASS

A	89	...	6.7%
B	82	...	6.3%
C	46	...	3.5%
D	773	...	58.9%
E	23	...	1.8%
Multiple	180	...	13.7%
Other	56	...	4.3%
Unknown	63	...	4.8%
	<u>1,312</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>100%</u>

Class A (heroin) and Class B (cocaine) defendants each accounted for slightly more than 6 percent of the cases, while Class C (LSD, hashish) and Class E (codein) represented 3.5 percent and 1.8 percent of the cases respectively.

Class by Region

Tables 9 and 10 show the distribution of drug classes by residential region of the drug defendants. Over half (55.1%) the Class A defendants in the 1978 sample were from Region VI, followed by 16.9 percent from Region I, Region VI also showed the highest frequency of Class B (28.0%), Class C (34.8 percent) and Class E. (30.4 percent) defendants.

Class D (marijuana) defendants were evenly dispersed across the state. However, Region VII (Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod) showed a higher number of marijuana defendants (18.8%) than any other region. Those charged with multiple classes of drug offenses were also most frequent in the Region VII areas of Massachusetts.

Simultaneous Offenses

Table 11 indicates the incidence of defendants being charged with other related offenses at the time of arrest. Over 61 percent were charged with drug offenses only, with no additional charges.

TABLE 9 - CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "A"

Region I	15 ... 16.9%
Region II	7 ... 7.9%
Region III	4 ... 4.5%
Region IV	1 ... 1.1%
Region V	6 ... 6.7%
Region VI	49 ... 55.1%
Region VII	6 ... 6.7%
Out of State	1 ... 1.1%
	<u>89 ... 100%</u>

CLASS "C"

Region I	3 ... 6.5%
Region II	1 ... 2.2%
Region III	10 ... 21.7%
Region IV	1 ... 2.2%
Region V	4 ... 8.7%
Region VI	16 ... 34.8%
Region VII	9 ... 19.6%
Out of State	2 ... 4.3%
	<u>46 ... 100%</u>

CLASS "E"

Region I	1 ... 4.4%
Region II	1 ... 4.4%
Region III	3 ... 13.0%
Region IV	2 ... 8.7%
Region V	4 ... 17.4%
Region VI	7 ... 30.4%
Region VII	5 ... 21.7%
Out of State	- -
	<u>23 ... 100%</u>

OTHER

Region I	5 ... 8.9%
Region II	3 ... 5.3%
Region III	12 ... 21.4%
Region IV	8 ... 14.3%
Region V	9 ... 16.1%
Region VI	10 ... 17.9%
Region VII	9 ... 16.1%
Out of State	- -
	<u>56 ... 100%</u>

CLASS "B"

Region I	7 ... 8.5%
Region II	2 ... 2.4%
Region III	8 ... 9.8%
Region IV	14 ... 17.1%
Region V	8 ... 9.8%
Region VI	23 ... 28.0%
Region VII	15 ... 18.3%
Out of State	5 ... 6.1%
	<u>82 ... 100%</u>

CLASS "D"

Region I	113 ... 14.6%
Region II	104 ... 13.4%
Region III	101 ... 13.1%
Region IV	100 ... 12.9%
Region V	85 ... 11.0%
Region VI	94 ... 12.2%
Region VII	145 ... 18.8%
Out of State	31 ... 4.0%
	<u>773 ... 100%</u>

MULTIPLE

Region I	13 ... 7.2%
Region II	19 ... 10.6%
Region III	19 ... 10.6%
Region IV	22 ... 12.2%
Region V	24 ... 13.3%
Region VI	34 ... 18.9%
Region VII	41 ... 22.8%
Out of State	8 ... 4.4%
	<u>180 ... 100%</u>

UNKNOWN

Region I	6 ... 9.5%
Region II	1 ... 1.6%
Region III	10 ... 15.9%
Region IV	8 ... 12.7%
Region V	20 ... 31.7%
Region VI	6 ... 9.5%
Region VII	9 ... 14.3%
Out of State	3 ... 4.8%
	<u>63 ... 100%</u>

TABLE 10 - PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

Region	A	B	C	D	E	Multiple	Other	Unknown	Totals
I	1.1%	.5%	.2%	8.6%	.1%	1.0%	.4%	.5%	12.4%
II	.5%	.2%	.1%	7.9%	.1%	1.4%	.2%	.1%	10.5%
III	.3%	.6%	.8%	7.7%	.2%	1.4%	.9%	.7%	12.6%
IV	.1%	1.1%	.1%	7.6%	.2%	1.7%	.6%	.6%	12.0%
V	.5%	.6%	.3%	6.4%	.3%	1.8%	.7%	1.5%	12.1%
VI	3.7%	1.8%	1.2%	7.2%	.5%	2.6%	.7%	.5%	18.2%
VII	.5%	1.1%	.7%	11.1%	.4%	3.1%	.7%	.7%	18.3%
Out of State	.1%	.4%	.2%	2.4%	-	.6%	-	.2%	3.9%
Totals:	6.8%	6.3%	3.6%	58.9%	1.8%	13.6%	4.2%	4.8%	100 %

TABLE 11 - SIMULTANEOUS OFFENSES

Drug Only	802	...	61.1%
Against Person	60	...	4.6%
Against Property	145	...	11.1%
Sex	3	...	.2%
Motor Vehicle	147	...	11.2%
Against Public Order	155	...	11.8%
	<u>1,312</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>100%</u>

However, 39 percent were charged with simultaneous offenses, the highest percent of which were for crimes against property, motor vehicle violations and crimes against public order (all at approximately 11 percent).

Distributors

Tables 12 and 13 analyzed the type of controlled substance offense and the type of drug being distributed, by class. Two-thirds of the drug defendants were charged with possession or being present where drugs were used, while 27.4 percent were distributors, or had quantities of drugs such that they intended to distribute.

TABLE 12 - TYPE OF CONTROL SUBSTANCE OFFENSE

Possession or Present	880	...	67.1%
Distribute or Intent	360	...	27.4%
Other	72	...	5.5%
	<u>1,312</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>100%</u>

TABLE 13 - DISTRIBUTE OR INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE BY CLASS

A	64	...	17.8%
B	48	...	13.3%
C	25	...	6.9%
D	133	...	36.9%
E	6	...	1.7%
Multiple	63	...	17.6%
Unknown	21	...	5.8%
	<u>360</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>100%</u>

Class D (marijuana) accounted for the highest number of actual/intended drug distributors (36.9 percent). Class A (heroin) and pushers dealing in multiple classes of drugs each represented about 17 percent of those arrested for actual or intended distribution.

Table 14 -- Estimated Annual Volume (1978) by Class

	4-week Total	Annual
Possession or Present	880	11,440
Distribution or Intent	360	4,680
Other	<u>72</u>	<u>936</u>
	1,312	17,056

Table 14 indicates the estimated annual (1978) volume by type of controlled substance offense. With 880 persons arraigned for possession during the total four-week sample in 1978, it is estimated that 11,440 defendants were charged with possession of controlled substance violations during the year. The data also projects that as many as 4,680 defendants were charged with drug distribution (or intent to distribute) in 1978.

These projections indicate that 17,056 defendants in the Commonwealth were charged with drug crimes during the year. The fall sample, drawn November 13-17, represented 23.4 percent of the sample, decreasing 31 percent from the August volume. The winter sample drawn January 30-February 3, accounted for 22.1 percent of the total volume. The spring sample, drawn May 22-25, represented the smallest percent of the 4-quarter total: only 20.5 percent of drug defendant cases.

VI. 1978 Four-Quarter Comparison

Age at Arraignment

Table 15 outlines the number of cases by age at arraignment. Juvenile defendants under 17 years of age represented only 10 percent of defendants in the January sample, compared to 14.5, 13.9 and 11.9 percent in the subsequent samples. The highest frequency was recorded in the August sample.

TABLE 15- - AGE AT ARRAIGNMENT

Age	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
14 and under	10...	3.4%	6...	2.2% (- 4...- 1.2%)	12...	2.7% (+ 6...+ 0.5%)	5...	1.5% (- 7...- 1.1%)
15-16	19...	6.6%	33...	12.3% (+14...+ 5.7%)	50...	11.2% (+17...- 1.1%)	31...	10.1% (-19...+ 1.1%)
17-18	40...	13.8%	61...	22.7% (+21...+ 8.9%)	90...	20.2% (+29...+ 2.5%)	67...	21.7% (-23...+ 1.5%)
19-21	61...	21.0%	63...	23.4% (+ 2...+ 2.4%)	112...	25.2% (+49...+ 1.8%)	67...	21.7% (-45...- 3.5%)
22-25	66...	22.8%	55...	20.4% (-11...- 2.4%)	94...	21.1% (+39...+ 0.7%)	59...	19.2% (-35...- 1.9%)
26 Plus	94...	32.4%	51...	19.0% (-43...-13.4%)	87...	19.6% (+36...+ 0.6%)	79...	25.7% (- 8...- 6.1%)
TOTALS:	290		269		445		308	

Young adult defendants (17-25 years of age), accounted for 66.5 percent of all cases in both the May and August samples, 62.6 percent in November and 57.6 percent in January. The main age of young adult drug defendants dropped slightly from a high of 20.8 years in January to about 20.2 years of age in the subsequent three samples of 1978.

Adult defendants (26 years of age and older) accounted for nearly one-third of the cases (32.4%) in the January sample, but the number of adults charged with drug offenses was lower in subsequent samples.

Residence by Region

Table 16 shows the number of defendants from each of the seven regions of the state. While all regions showed some fluctuations across the four samples, the patterns of two regions should be noted. In Region VI, the percent of defendants dropped steadily from 28.6 percent in January to 12.6 percent in November. On the other hand, an increasing percentage of defendants were residents of Region VII: 14.5 percent in January, compared to 22.7 percent in November.

In August, when the number of defendants rose sharply over the previous May sample, the highest percent increase was noted in Region III, where the frequency increased by 24.5 percent.

TABLE 16 --- RESIDENCE BY REGION

January-1978

May-1978

August-1978

November-1978

Region	Per- cent		Per- cent		Per- cent		Per- cent	
	No.	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Comparison Prev. Quarter
I	32.....	11.0%	41.....	15.2% (+ 9.. + 4.2%)	41... 9.2%	(+ 0.. - 6.0%)	49... 15.9%	(+ 8.. + 6.7%)
II	27.....	9.4%	38.....	14.1% (+11.. + 4.7%)	45... 10.1%	(+ 7.. - 4.0%)	28... 9.1%	(-17.. - 1.0%)
III	28.....	9.7%	22.....	8.2% (- 6.. - 1.5%)	76... 17.1%	(+54.. + 8.9%)	41... 13.3%	(-35.. - 3.8%)
IV	36.....	12.4%	26.....	9.7% (-10.. - 2.7%)	55... 12.4%	(+29.. + 2.7%)	39... 12.7%	(-16.. + 0.3%)
V	39.....	13.4%	32.....	11.9% (- 7.. - 1.5%)	61... 13.7%	(+29.. + 1.8%)	28... 9.1%	(-33.. - 4.6%)
VI	83.....	28.6%	57.....	21.2% (-26.. - 7.4%)	60... 13.5%	(+ 3.. - 7.7%)	39... 12.6%	(-21.. - 0.9%)
VII	42.....	14.5%	44.....	16.4% (+ 2.. + 1.9%)	83... 18.6%	(+39.. + 2.2%)	70... 22.7%	(-13.. + 4.1%)
Out Of State	3.....	1.0%	9.....	3.3% (+ 6.. + 2.3%)	24... 5.4%	(+15.. + 2.1%)	14... 4.6%	(-10.. - 0.8%)
TOTALS	290		269		445		308	

Substance by Class

Table 17 shows the distribution of the various classes of drug offenses during the four-sample weeks. Class D (marijuana) offenses represented the greatest percent of cases in all four samples, but were higher in the warm weather samples of May (63.9%) and August (64.7%) than cold weather samples in January (50%) and November (54.5%).

The percent distribution for two classes of drug defendants decreased over the four samples. Class A (heroin) dropped from 10 percent of all cases in January to only 5.2 percent in November. The percent of defendants charged with multiple classes of drug violations dropped from 16.9 percent of the total sample in January to 11.7 percent in November.

TABLE 17 - - SUBSTANCE BY CLASS

January-1978			May-1978			August-1978			November-1978		
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter
A	29...	10.0%	18...	6.7%	(-11.. - 3.3%)	26...	5.8%	(+ 8..- 0.9%)	16...	5.2%	(- 10..- 0.6%)
B	27...	9.4%	12...	4.5%	(+15.. - 4.9%)	14...	3.2%	(+ 2..- 1.3%)	29...	9.4%	(+ 15..+ 6.2%)
C	10...	3.4%	12...	4.5%	(+ 2.. + 1.1%)	13...	2.9%	(+ 1..- 1.6%)	11...	3.6%	(- 2..+ 0.7%)
D	145...	50.0%	172...	63.9%	(+27.. +13.9%)	288...	64.7%	(+116..+ 0.8%)	168...	54.5%	(-120..-10.2%)
E	9...	3.1%	4...	1.5%	(- 5.. - 1.6%)	12...	0.4%	(- 2..- 1.1%)	8...	2.6%	(+ 6..+ 2.2%)
MULTIPLE	49...	16.9%	34...	12.6%	(-15.. - 4.3%)	61...	13.7%	(+ 27..+ 1.1%)	36...	11.7%	(- 25..- 2.0%)
OTHER	16...	5.5%	13...	4.8%	(- 3.. - 0.7%)	14...	3.2%	(+ 1..- 1.6%)	13...	4.2%	(- 1..- 1.0%)
UNKNOWN	5...	1.7%	4...	1.5%	(- 1.. - 0.2%)	27...	6.1%	(+ 23..+ 4.6%)	27...	8.8%	(- ---+ 2.7%)
TOTALS:	290		269			445			308		

Drug Class By Region

Tables 18-25 show the distribution of drug classes by residential region of defendants for the four sample weeks.

Class A offenses reflected a shift away from Region VI (January data shows 69.1% of cases from Suffolk County and Brookline), to a wider dispersion across the state in November. The November sample showed 31.3 percent of the cases were from Region I (compared to only 17.2 percent in January, 16.7 percent in May and 7.7 percent in August), followed by Region VI with 25.2 percent of the cases.

Class B offenses showed the highest frequency in the November sample approximately 20 percent of the cases were evenly distributed in Regions III, IV, VI and VII. Two regions (I and VI) showed a steady decline over the year, while Region III and IV increased substantially their January vs. November totals.

Class C figures were constant throughout the year with no noticeable changes in any of the Regions.

Class D figures represented almost 60% of the total offenses for the year. The November figure was low compared to the previous quarter, but that may have been due to a seasonal factor. Note, however, that the other three quarters had a constant mean of approximately 150. Throughout the year, the comparative percents of the quarterly total decreased in Region VI.

Class E figures show Region VI increasing in number each quarter and in total amounting to 50% of the offenses in this category.

Multiples reveal that in the peak quarter (August) Regions III and VII amounted to 50% of the total. This continued in November for Region VII. A noticeable change was in Region VI, which totaled 13 in January and 8 in November.

TABLE 18 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "A"

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	5...	17.2%	3...	16.7% (- 2...- 0.5%)	2...	7.7% (~ 1...- 9.0%)	5...	31.3% (+ 3...+23.6%)
II	3...	10.3%	...	(- 3...-10.3%)	3...	11.5% (+ 3...+11.5%)	1...	6.2% (- 2...- 5.3%)
III	1...	3.4%	1...	5.6% (.. + 2.2%)	1...	3.9% (.. - 1.7%)	1...	6.2% (.. + 2.3%)
IV	...		...	(.. ..)	...	(.. ..)	1...	6.2% (+ 1...+ 6.2%)
V	...		...	(.. ..)	5...	19.2% (+ 5...+19.2%)	1...	6.2% (- 4...-13.0%)
VI	20...	69.1%	11...	61.0% (- 9...- 8.1%)	14...	53.8% (+ 3...- 7.2%)	4...	25.2% (-10...-28.6%)
VII	...		3...	16.7% (+ 3...+16.7%)	1...	3.9% (- 2...-12.8%)	2...	12.5% (+ 1...+ 8.6%)
Out of State	...		...	(.. ..)	...	(.. ..)	1...	6.2% (+ 1...+ 6.2%)

TABLE 19 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "B"

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I.	6...	22.2%	...	(- 6...-22.2%)	1...	7.2%	...	(- 1...- 7.2%)
II	...		1...	8.3%	...	(- 1...- 8.3%)	1...	3.5%
III	2...	7.4%		(- 2...- 7.4%)	...	(..)	6...	20.7%
IV	3...	11.1%	4...	33.3%	1...	7.2%	6...	20.7%
V	3...	11.1%	1...	8.3%	3...	21.4%	1...	3.5%
VI	12...	44.5%	2...	16.7%	3...	21.4%	6...	20.7%
VII	1...	3.7%	3...	25.1%	5...	35.6%	6...	20.7%
Out of State	...		1...	8.3%	1...	7.2%	3...	10.2%
				(+ 1...+ 8.3%)		(..- 1.1%)		(+ 2...+ 3.0%)

TABLE 20 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "C"

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	...		1...	8.3% (+ 1..+ 8.3%)	2....	15.4% (+ 1..+ 7.1%)	...	(- 2..-15.4%)
II	...		...	(..)	1...	7.8% (+ 1..+ 7.8%)	...	(- 1..- 7.8%)
III	2....	20.0%	3....	25.0% (+ 1..+ 5.0%)	3....	23.0% (..+ 2.0%)	2....	18.2% (- 1..- 4.8%)
IV	...		...	(..)	1....	7.8% (+ 1..+ 7.8%)	...	(- 1..- 7.8%)
V	1....	10.0%	1....	8.3% (..- 1.7%)	...	(- 1..- 8.3%)	2....	18.2% (+ 2..+18.2%)
VI	5....	50.0%	4....	33.3% (- 1..-16.7%)	3....	23.0% (- 1..-10.3%)	4....	36.3% (+ 1..+13.3%)
VII	2....	20.0%	2....	16.7% (..- 3.3%)	3....	23.0% (+ 1..+ 6.3%)	2....	18.2% (- 1..- 4.8%)
Out of State	...		1....	8.3% (+ 1..+ 8.3%)	...	(- 1..- 8.3%)	1....	9.1% (+ 1..+ 9.1%)

TABLE 21 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "D"

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	12...	8.3%	34...	19.7%	32...	11.1%	35...	20.8%
II	15...	10.3%	29...	16.9%	36...	12.5%	24...	14.3%
III	18...	12.4%	11...	6.4%	50...	17.4%	22...	13.1%
IV	21...	14.5%	17...	9.9%	41...	14.2%	21...	12.5%
V	20...	13.8%	18...	10.5%	34...	11.8%	13...	7.7%
VI	28...	19.3%	33...	19.2%	26...	9.0%	7...	4.2%
VII	28...	19.3%	25...	14.5%	53...	18.4%	39...	23.2%
Out of State	3...	2.1%	5...	2.9%	16...	5.6%	7...	4.2%
				(+ 2..+ 0.8%)		(+11..+ 2.7%)		(- 9...- 1.4%)
				(- 7...- 6.0%)		(+39..+11.0%)		(-28...- 4.3%)
				(- 4...- 4.6%)		(+24..+ 4.3%)		(-20...- 1.7%)
				(- 2...- 3.3%)		(+16..+ 1.3%)		(-21...- 4.1%)
				(+ 5...- 0.1%)		(- 7...-10.2%)		(-19...- 4.8%)
				(- 3...- 4.8%)		(+28..+ 3.9%)		(-14...+ 4.8%)

TABLE 22 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

CLASS "F"

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	1...11.1%		...	(- 1...-11.1%)	...	(..)	...	(..)
II	1...11.1%		...	(- 1...-11.1%)	...	(..)	...	(..)
III	...		3...75.0%	(+ 3...+75.0%)	...	(- 3...-75.0%)	...	(..)
IV	...		...	(..)	...	(..)	2...25.0%	(+ 2...+25.0%)
V	3...33.4%		...	(- 3...-33.4%)	1...50.0%	(+ 1...+50.0%)	...	(- 1...-50.0%)
VI	1...11.1%		1...25.0%	(..+13.9%)	1...50.0%	(..+25.0%)	4...50.0%	(+ 3...)
VII	3...33.3%		...	(- 3...-33.3%)	...	(..)	2...25.0%	(+ 2...25.0%)
Out of State	...		...	(..)	...	(..)	...	(..)

TABLE 23 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

MULTIPLE

Region	<u>January-1978</u>		<u>May-1978</u>		<u>August-1978</u>		<u>November-1978</u>	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	5...	10.2%	3...	8.8% (- 2...- 1.4%)	3...	4.9% (...- 3.9%)	2...	5.6% (- 1...+ 0.7%)
II	8...	16.3%	5...	14.7% (- 3...- 1.6%)	4...	6.6% (- 1...- 8.1%)	2...	5.6% (- 2...- 1.0%)
III	3...	6.1%	1...	2.9% (- 2...- 3.2%)	12...	19.7% (+11...+16.8%)	3...	8.3% (- 9...-11.4%)
IV	10...	20.4%	3...	8.8% (- 7...-11.6%)	6...	9.8% (+ 3...+ 1.0%)	3...	8.3% (- 3...- 1.5%)
V	6...	12.2%	9...	26.5% (+ 3...+14.3%)	5...	8.2% (- 4...-18.3%)	4...	11.1% (- 1...+ 2.9%)
VI	13...	26.6%	4...	11.8% (- 9...-14.8%)	9...	14.8% (+ 5...+ 3.0%)	8...	22.2% (- 1...+ 7.4%)
VII	4...	8.2%	7...	20.6% (+ 3...+12.4%)	16...	26.2% (+ 9...+ 5.6%)	14...	38.9% (- 2...+11.7%)
Out of State	...		2...	5.9% (+ 2...+ 5.9%)	6...	9.8% (+ 4...+ 3.9%)	...	(- 6...- 9.8%)

TABLE 24 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Case)
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

OTHER

January-1978			May-1978			August-1978			November-1978		
Region	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev.Quarter	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev.Quarter	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev.Quarter
I	3...	18.8%	...	...	(- 3...-18.8%)	1...	7.1%	(+ 1...+ 7.1%)	1...	7.7%	(..+ 0.6%)
II	...	...	3...	23.1%	(+ 3...+23.1%)	...	...	(- 3...-23.1%)	...	...	(..)
III	2...	12.5%	3...	23.1%	(+ 1...+10.6%)	4...	28.6%	(+ 1...+ 5.1%)	3...	23.1%	(- 1...- 5.5%)
IV	2...	12.5%	2...	15.4%	(..+ 2.9%)	2...	14.3%	(..- 1.1%)	2...	15.4%	(..- 1.1%)
V	2...	12.5%	2...	15.4%	(..+ 2.9%)	3...	21.4%	(+ 1...+ 6.0%)	2...	15.4%	(- 1...- 6.0%)
VI	4...	24.9%	2...	15.4%	(- 2...- 9.5%)	2...	14.3%	(..- 1.1%)	2...	15.4%	(..+ 1.1%)
VII	3...	18.8%	1...	7.6%	(- 2...-11.2%)	2...	14.3%	(+ 1...+ 6.7%)	3...	23.0%	(+ 1...+ 8.7%)
Out of State	...	...	...	...	(..)	...	...	(..)	...	...	(..)

TABLE 25 - CLASS BY REGION (Number of Cases)
- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS BY REGION

UNKNOWN

Region	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
I	...		...	(..)	...	(..)	6...	22.3% (+ 6..+22.3%)
II	...		...	(..)	1...	3.7% (+ 1..+ 3.7%)	...	(- 1..- 3.7%)
III	...		...	(..)	6...	22.2% (+ 6..+22.2%)	4...	14.8% (- 2..- 7.4%)
IV	...		...	(..)	4...	14.8% (+ 4..+14.8%)	4...	14.8% (..)
V	4...	80.0%	1...	25.0% (- 3..-55.0%)	10...	37.1% (-15..+12.1%)	5...	18.5% (- 5..-18.6%)
VI	...		...	(..)	2...	7.4% (+ 2..+ 7.4%)	4...	14.8% (+ 2..+ 7.4%)
VII	1...	20.0%	3...	75.0% (- 2..-55.0%)	3...	11.1% (..-63.9%)	2...	7.4% (- 1..- 3.7%)
Out of State	...		...	(..)	1...	3.7% (+ 1..+ 3.7%)	2...	7.4% (+ 1..+ 3.7%)

Simultaneous Offenses

Analysis of simultaneous offenses, (table 26) reveal crimes against person and motor vehicle offenses showed a decline from the beginning to the end of the year, whereas those against property and public order were on the increase.

TABLE 26 - - SIMULTANEOUS OFFENSES

January-1978				May - 1978				August - 1978				November - 1978			
Offense	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	Comparison Prev. Quarter
Drug Only	171	59.0%	168	62.5%	(- 3.5%)	278	62.5%	185	60.1%	(- 93.0%)					
Against Person	20	6.9%	10	3.7%	(- 10.0%)	16	3.6%	14	4.6%	(- 2.0%)					
Against Property	36	12.4%	30	11.2%	(- 6.0%)	36	8.1%	43	13.9%	(+ 7.0%)					
Sex	1	0.3%	---	---	(- 1.0%)	2	0.4%	---	---	(- 2.0%)					
Motor Vehicle	35	12.1%	28	10.4%	(- 7.0%)	55	12.3%	29	9.4%	(- 26.0%)					
Against Public Order	27	9.3%	33	12.3%	(+ 6.0%)	58	13.1%	37	12.0%	(- 21.0%)					
TOTALS:	290		269			445		308							

Distributors

Table 27 indicates the type of control substance. The sizeable increase in August of possession or present was the only noticeable increase in number throughout the entire year; in that same sample, the percentage of actual/intended distributors declined to 22 percent of those charged with controlled substance violations.

Table 28 analyzes "distribution/Intent to distribute by class". Class A peaked in the first quarter and dropped off the rest of the year, while multiples peaked in the first quarter, declined the second and third quarters and increased in the last quarter. Class B showed a marked decline in the second quarter.

TABLE 27 - - TYPE OF CONTROL SUBSTANCE OFFENSE

Offense	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November 1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
Possession or Present	180...	62.1%	181...	67.3% (+ 1..+5.2%)	326...	73.3% (+145..+6.0%)	193...	62.7% (-133...-10.6%)
Distribute or Intent	92...	31.7%	74...	27.5% (-18...-4.2%)	98...	22.0% (+ 24...-5.5%)	96...	31.1% (- 2...+ 9.1%)
Other	18...	6.2%	14...	5.2% (- 4...-1.0%)	21...	4.7% (+ 7...-0.4%)	19...	6.2% (- 2...+ 1.5%)
TOTALS:	290		269		445		308	

TABLE 28 - - DISTRIBUTE/INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE, BY CLASS

Class	January-1978		May-1978		August-1978		November-1978	
	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent	No.	Per- cent
A	21...	22.8%	14...	18.9% (- 7...- 3.9%)	15...	15.3% (+ 1...-3.6%)	14...	14.5% (- 1...- 0.8%)
B	14...	15.2%	6...	8.1% (- 8...- 7.1%)	12...	12.2% (+ 6...+4.1%)	16...	16.7% (+ 4...+ 4.5%)
C	3...	3.3%	11...	14.9% (+ 8...+11.6%)	5...	5.1% (- 6...-9.8%)	6...	6.3% (+ 1...+ 1.2%)
D	28...	30.4%	35...	47.3% (- 7...+16.9%)	42...	42.9% (+ 7...-4.4%)	28...	29.2% (- 14...-13.7%)
E	1...	1.1%	---	----- (- 1...- 1.0%)	1...	1.0% (+ 1...+1.0%)	4...	4.2% (+ 3...+ 3.2%)
MULTIPLE	21...	22.8%	8...	10.8% (-13...-12.0%)	14...	14.3% (+ 6...+3.5%)	20...	20.8% (+ 6...+ 6.5%)
UNKNOWN	4...	4.4%	---	----- (- 4...- 4.4%)	9...	9.2% (+ 9...+9.2%)	8...	8.3% (- 1...- 0.9%)
TOTALS:	92		74		98		96	

VII. Conclusions

Young adults comprise nearly two-thirds (63.7 percent) of all those persons charged with controlled substance violations in 1978, followed in frequency by adults at 23.7 percent. Juveniles accounted for only 12.6 percent of the defendants, but have shown a steady increase in frequency over the last three years.

The 1978 drug defendants appear to be evenly dispersed across the state, with a slightly higher concentration in Suffolk County (Region VI) and Southeastern Massachusetts (Region VII). This overall pattern marks a shift from previous years. The Southeastern Massachusetts/Cape Cod area has witnessed an alarming 291 percent increase in drug defendants since 1976; the number of defendants from that region increased 66 percent from January to November, 1978.

Class A (heroin) offenses have shown a steady reduction (28 percent) in frequency since 1976, and dropped 44 percent from January to November, 1978. Marijuana (Class D) accounted for more than half (58.9 percent) of the drug defendants in 1978, and increased 15 percent from January to November.

Drawing off the total annual estimate of 17,056 drug defendants in Massachusetts in 1978, an estimated 10,046 were charged with possession or distribution of marijuana. Decriminalization of marijuana in the future would significantly reduce the number of defendants charged with controlled substance violations.

